India's Stand on N.P.T.

*148. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to slate :

(a) whether India's consistent reluctance to sign the discriminatory Non-Prolifera-tion Treaty is an obstacle to improve Indo-U.S. relations;

(b) if so, whether there would be more pressure on India to change her stand as France and Russia have changed their stance in regard to Non-Proliferation Treaty agreement; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to convince the power block about its stand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c) There are policy differences between India and the US in respect of the Non-Proliferation Treaty which are presently under discussion.

Former USSR was a depository state of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and Russia has now assumed this status as a successor state. France has also acceded to the Non-Proliferation Treaty by depositing its instruments of ratification on August 3, 1992. However, France's accession is as a nuclear weapon state as it had developed nuclear weapons before 1-1-67, the cut-off date specified in the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The Government has called for developing a global non-proliferation regime through consensus. Bilateral dialogues with a number of countries are underway to discuss these issues and narrow the differences in perceptions with a view to evolving an international consensus.

Norms for Recognition of SC/ST Government Employees Associations

*149. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI :

CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the norms prescribed for recognition of SC/ST Government Employees' Associations;

(b) the number of SC/ST Government Employees' Associations recognised during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether any request for recognition of such associations has been received from any Government Department/ Association during 1991 and 1992; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI-MATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) and (b) As a policy, no association of employees based on caste, creed, religion etc. is recognised. In the light of this policy. SC/ST Government Employees Associations cannot be given recognition.

(c) and (d) Requests for recognition of such associations are to be examined by the Ministries/Departments concerned and are not being monitored centrally. In any case, in tune with Government policy, the question of recognising such Associations does not arise.

Proposals received by the Rubber Board

*150. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rubber Board has received proposals from some companies for growing rubber in North West Bengal areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRY ES AND AGRO & RURAL INDUSTRIES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. J. KURIEN) : (a) and (b) The Rubber Board has been receiving enquiries from individuals and certain companies seeking.. the suitability for raising rubber plantations in the Northern Diatricts of the State of West Bengal. They have been advised by Rubber Board that certain -areas especially in Jalpaiguri and adjoining districts in the

Northern parts of West Bengal are found to be moderately suitable for economic cultivation of rubber.

Recently, a company has sought the assistance of the Rubber Board to get allotment of about 80 hectares (200 acres) of land from the Govt, of West Bengal for rubber cultivation. Although this company was assured of all possible help from the Rubber Board within the ambit of the existing rules etc., the Rubber Board has not been approached further in the matter.

सऊदी अरब में रह रहे भारतीयों पर अत्याचार

*151. डा० बापू कालदाते : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सऊदी अरब में कार्यरत भारतीयों पर अत्याचार की घटनाएं बढ़ रही हैं ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि वहां कार्यरत भारतीय महिलाओं को गुलामों की जिन्दगी जीने पर मजबूर किया जा रहा है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) सरकार इस संबंध में क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० एल० भाटिया) : (क) और (ख) जी नहीं।

(ग) और (घ) सऊदी अरब में कार्यरत भारतीय श्रमिकों में से थोड़े से ही श्रमिक ऐसे हैं जिन्हें किन्हीं प्रकार की श्रमिक समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। ऐसा कोई साक्ष्य नहीं है जिससे यह पता चले कि अन्य विदेशी श्रमिकों के मुकाबले भारतीय श्रमिकों के साथ भेद-भाव किया जाता है। ऐसे सभी मामलों में पहले भारतीय राजदूतावास द्वारा साऊदी नियोक्ता के साथ मामले को उठाया जाता है और यदि इसमें सफलता न मिले तो आवश्यकतानुसार रियाध और दिल्ली दोनों में ही साऊदी प्राधिकारियों के हस्तक्षेप की मांग की जाती है।

Iranian President's Statement on J and K

* 152. SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI:
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the President of Iran during his recent visit to Pakistan made certain references on Kashmir; if so; what is the precise statement of the Iranian President and Government's reaction thereto;

(b) whether Government have sent any protest note to the Government of Iran; and

.(c) whether the Prime Minister had a meeting with the President of Iran during the NAM Conference, and whether this point was raised in the meeting, if so what was the reaction of the Iranian President thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) During his visit to Pakistan from 6-9 September, 1992, President of Iran reportedly stated that the UN resolutions on Kashmir were not being implemented and that Iran shared Pakistan's concern over Kashmir issue.

Government have conveyed to the Government of Iran through diplomatic channels its objections and disappointment over the Iranian statement.

(c) Yes, Sir. This meeting took place before the Iranian President visited Pakistan from 6th to 9th September. This issue therefore was not raised. Our point of view on all matters of regional impor tance was conveyed to the Iranian side.